Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-8. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-8, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-8.

In Fig. 1, the reference numeral 10 marking the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the first embodiment of the invention has been replaced with the reference numeral 10_1. No new matter has been added.

In Fig. 2, the reference numeral 50 marking one of the circumferentially opposed radial edges of the notch 42 has been replaced with the reference numeral 49. No new matter has been added.

In Fig. 3, the previously omitted reference numeral 10_2 marking the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the second embodiment of the invention has been added. No new matter has been entered.

In Fig. 4, the previously omitted reference numeral 10_3 marking the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the third embodiment of the invention has been added. No new matter has been entered.

In Fig. 5, the previously omitted reference numeral 10_4 marking the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the fourth embodiment of the invention, the previously omitted reference numeral 20' marking the damper employed in the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the fourth embodiment of the invention, and the previously omitted reference numerals 26' and 28' marking the rear and front guide washers of the damper 20' have been

added. No new matter has been entered.

In Fig. 6, the reference numeral 28 marking the front guide washers of the damper 20' has been replaced with the reference numeral 28'. No new matter has been entered.

In Fig. 7, the reference numerals 26 and 28 marking the rear and front guide washers of the damper 20' has been replaced with the reference numerals 26' and 28', respectively. No new matter has been entered.

In Fig. 8, the previously omitted reference numeral 10_5 marking the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the fifth embodiment of the invention, the previously omitted reference numeral 20" marking the damper employed in the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the fifth embodiment of the invention, and the previously omitted reference numerals 26" and 28' marking the rear and front guide washers of the damper 20" have been added. Also, the reference numeral 34 marking the external peripheral edge of the rear guide washer 26" has been replaced with the reference numeral 34". No new matter has been entered.

Attachment: Six Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated August 21, 2009. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because "in several instances the same reference character has been used to denote different parts". The drawing figures 1-8 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Specifically, the Examiner noted that the reference characters (26) and (28) were used to designate both the guide washers of Figs. 1-4 having notches and windows, and the guide washers of Figs. 5-7 not having notches and windows. Figs. 5-7 have been amended to designate the rear and front guide washers with the reference characters 26' and 28', respectively, instead of the reference characters 26 and 28. No new matter has been added. Specification has been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

Moreover, drawings were objected to because the reference characters (26) and (28) were used to designate both the guide washers of Figs. 1-4 and the guide washers of Fig. 8, which are structurally different. Fig. 8 has been amended to designate the rear and front guide washers with the reference characters 26" and 28', respectively, instead of the reference characters 26 and 28. No new matter has been added. Specification has been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner further noted that the reference character (50) was used to designate both

one of edges of the notch 42 (shown in Fig. 2) and the circumferentially acting elastic members 50 (shown in Figs. 1 and 2). Accordingly, Fig. 2 has been amended to replace the reference character 50 designating one of edges of the notch 42 with the reference character 49. No new matter has been added. Specification has been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

Moreover, Fig. 1 has been amended to replace the reference character 10 designating the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the first embodiment of the present invention, with the reference character 10_1. No new matter has been added. Specification has been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

Fig. 3 has been amended to add the previously omitted reference character 10_2 designating the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the second embodiment of the present invention. No new matter has been added. Specification has been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

Fig. 4 has been amended to add the previously omitted reference character 10_3 designating the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the third embodiment of the present invention. No new matter has been added. Specification has been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

Fig. 5 has been further amended to add the previously omitted reference character 10_4 designating the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention, and the previously omitted reference character 20' designating the damper of the hydrokinetic coupling device 10_4. No new matter has been added. Specification has

been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

Fig. 8 has been further amended to add the previously omitted reference character 10_5 designating the hydrokinetic coupling device according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention, and the previously omitted reference character 20" designating the damper of the hydrokinetic coupling device 10_5. No new matter has been added. Specification has been correspondingly amended. No new matter has been added.

The Abstract of the disclosure and the specification were objected to because of the minor informalities. The Abstract of the disclosure and the specification have been amended to correct minor informalities and to overcome the Examiner's objections. No new matter has been added.

Claims 10 and 11 were objected to because of minor informalities. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to correct minor informalities and to overcome this objection. Moreover, claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added.

Claim 3 has been amended to specify that the axial-effect rear elastic washer is interposed axially between the damper plate and one of the rear guide washer and the turbine hub. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment could be found in Figs. 1 and 3; on page 18, lines 23-27 and page 21, lines 21-25.

Claims 1-9 and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15 and 19 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections. No new matter has been added.

Moreover, claims 1-20 have been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sudau et al. (US 6,231,472). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner alleges the cover plates 97a and 168a (shown in Fig. 5 of Sudau and interpreted by the Examiner as the front and rear guide washers) prevent or at least restrict the flow of fluid through the space between the cover plate 97a and the planetary carrier 95a (interpreted by the Examiner as the damper plate).

Anticipation under Section 102 requires that a prior art reference disclose every claim element of the claimed invention. *E.g., Orthokinetics, Inc. v. Safety Travel Chairs, Inc.*, 806 F.2d 1565, 1574, 1 U.S.P.Q.2d 1081 (Fed. Cir. 1986). The absence of any element of the claim from the cited reference negates anticipation. *E.g., Structural Rubber Prods. Co. v. Park Rubber Co.*, 749 F.2d 707, 715, 223 U.S.P.Q. 1264 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The Examiner's allegations that the cover plates 97a and 168a of Sudau prevent or at least restrict the flow of fluid through the space between the cover plate 97a and the planetary

carrier 95a so as to promote the circulation of fluid from the supply channel to the discharge channel through the lock-up clutch 65a are not supported by the disclosure of Sudau. However, the Examiner's allegations are not supported by the disclosure of Sudau. Nowhere in the specification has Sudau described the flow of fluid circulation through the housing 10a.

Moreover, because Fig. 5 of Sudau referred to by the Examiner, does not show the supply channel and the discharge channel, the Examiner refers to Fig. 1 of Sudau illustrating the embodiment different from the embodiment of Fig. 5 and showing annular spaces 53, 54 interpreted by the Examiner as the supply channel, and the inner bore hole 41 interpreted by the Examiner as the discharge channel. The Examiner alleges that the hydraulic circuit of the embodiment of Fig. 1 is similar of the hydraulic circuit of the embodiment of Fig. 5. As further disclosed by Sudau, a space 108a formed between the piston 63a and the housing 10a communicates with a central opening of a driven shaft--i.e., transmission input shaft--to enable the exchange of fluid (see col. 9, lines 50-60). However, the space 108a is sealed and fluidly separated from the damping device 100a. Thus, the circulation of fluid from the supply channel (annular spaces 53, 54) to the discharge channel (the inner bore hole 41) cannot occur through the lock-up clutch 65a.

Furthermore, those skilled in the art would not possibly interpret the cover plates 97a and 168a of Sudau as parts preventing or restricting the flow of fluid through the space between the cover plate 97a and the planetary carrier 95a in order to promote the circulation of fluid from the supply channel to the discharge channel through the lock-up clutch 65a of Sudau.

Also, the hydrokinetic coupling device of Sudau includes the planetary carrier 95a that carries planet gears 83a via respective shoulders or stamped out portions or pins 82a. "A bearing sleeve 182a, e.g., made of brass, may optionally be inserted intermediate the pin 82a and the planet gear 83a. The planet gears 83 are in meshed engagement on the radial outside with a ring gear 106a which is freely rotatable--supported in a floating manner--and are in meshed engagement on the radial inner side with a toothing 184a which is formed at the foot 33a of the turbine shell 29a. In this embodiment, the sun gear 87a is formed by the foot 33a." See col. 10, lines 42-55. Those skilled in the art would readily realize that the planetary gearing and the brass bearing sleeves need lubrication. In other word, the cover plates 97a and 168a of Sudau have to promote the flow of fluid through the space between the cover plate 97a and the planetary carrier 95a in order to provide lubrication for the planetary gearing and the brass bearing sleeves, not prevent or restrict the flow of fluid.

For these reasons alone, the applied document, *i.e.*, the '472 patent to Sudau, does not meet this standard of anticipation. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper.

Claims 1-9 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heller et al. (US 6,354,413). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

First, the Examiner alleges that the torque converter of Heller includes a supply channel (between the drive shaft and the shaft 10) and a discharge channel (between shafts 10 and 31). However, the Examiner's allegations are not supported by the disclosure of Heller.

Nowhere in the specification has Heller indicated that the fluid is supplied through the channel between the drive shaft and the shaft 10, and is discharged through the channel between shafts 10 and 31.

Second, the Examiner erroneously interprets the element 62 (shown in Fig. 3 of Heller) as the elastic washer. Again, the Examiner's allegations are not supported by the disclosure of Heller. Unfortunately, the element 62 is omitted from the specification of Heller. However, Heller discloses in col. 8, lines 13-18 that:

> "An energy accumulator such as a ***plate spring*** is mounted between the flange 50 and the opposite side disc 42 and with its radially outer regions engages rotationally ***secured in windows 63 of the side disc 42*** and with its radially inner ring area is supported on the side disc 42 biased by force. The flange is thereby positioned in the axial direction relative to the two side discs and a basic friction of the damper is produced." (Emphases added).

In other words, it appears that the reference numeral 62 in Fig. 3 of Heller should be marking the above mentioned "plate spring", not the elastic washer. Moreover, it is not disclosed by Heller and it is not clear how the plate spring 62 can form a barrier against the radial circulation of the fluid inside the front axial space of the damping device (40) to promote the circulation of fluid from the supply channel to the discharge channel (none of them disclosed by Heller) through the lock-up clutch 70. In any case, Heller fails to disclose

the elastic washer forming a barrier against the radial circulation of the fluid inside the front axial space of the damping device (40) to promote the circulation of fluid from the supply channel to the discharge channel through the lock-up clutch 70.

For these reasons alone, the applied document, *i.e.*, the '413 patent to Heller, does not meet this standard of anticipation. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-9 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is improper.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 define the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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